

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	§	
	§	
V.	§	CRIMINAL NO. H-12-218
	§	
RODNEY ZAID MEJIA AKA SARCO	§	

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

In accordance with the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f), a detention hearing has been held. I conclude that the following facts are established by a preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing evidence and require the detention of the above-named defendant pending trial in this case.

Findings of Fact

☐ A. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e), § 3142(f)(1)].

☐ (1) The defendant has been convicted of a (federal offense) (state or local offense that would have been a federal offense if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed) that is

☐ a crime of violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3156(a)(4).

☐ an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death.

☐ an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C. () § 801 et seq. () § 951 et seq. () § 955(a).

☐ a felony that was committed after the defendant had been convicted of two or more prior federal offenses described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) (A)-(C), or comparable state or local offenses.

☐ (2) The offense described in finding 1 was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a federal, state or local offense.

☐ (3) A period of not more than five years has elapsed since the (date of conviction) (release of the defendant from imprisonment) for the offense described in finding 1.

☐ (4) Findings Nos. 1, 2, and 3 establish a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community. I further find that the defendant has not rebutted this presumption.

☒ B. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)]

☒ (1) There is probable cause to believe that the defendant has committed an offense

☐ for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in 21 U.S.C.
() § 801 et seq. () § 951 et seq. () § 955(a).

☒ under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

☒ (2) The defendant has not rebutted the presumption established by finding 1 that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community.

☒ C. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)]

☒ (1) Defendant is accused of violent crimes in aid of racketeering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1959, conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute Alprazolam (generic Xanax) in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841, 846, being a felon in possession of a firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922, and providing a firearm to a convicted felon in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922.

☒ (2) There is a serious risk that the defendant will flee.

☒ (3) Defendant represents a danger to the community.

☐ (4) There is a serious risk that the defendant will (obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice) (threaten, injure, or intimidate a prospective witness or juror, or attempt to do so).

☒ D. Findings of Fact [18 U.S.C. § 3142(c)]

☐ (1) As a condition of release of the defendant, bond was set as follows:

☐ (2)

☒ (3) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required.

☒ (4) I find that there is no condition or combination of conditions set forth in

18 U.S.C. § 3142(c) which will reasonably assure the safety of any other person or the community.

Written Statement of Reasons for Detention

I find that the accusations in the indictment, information submitted in the Pretrial Services Agency report, and information submitted at the detention hearing establish by a preponderance of the evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and by clear and convincing evidence that no conditions will assure the safety of the community.

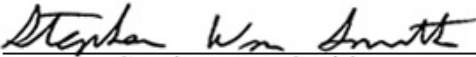
I conclude that the following factors specified in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) are present and are to be taken into account:

1. Defendant is a 20 year old citizen of the United States and life-long resident of Houston, Texas. He lives in a home with his mother, step-father, brother, sister-in-law, 2 nieces, and his girlfriend. Another brother is incarcerated. His girlfriend, who is in high school, is expecting their child in June. He has a passport but denies any travel.
2. Defendant is charged with violent crimes in aid of racketeering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1959, conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute Alprazolam (generic Xanax) in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841, 846, being a felon in possession of a firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922, and providing a firearm to a convicted felon in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922. Defendant faces a penalty of up to 10 years in prison on each charge except the drug charge, which has a penalty of up to 5 years in prison.
3. Defendant has a criminal history including a felony conviction for engaging in organized criminal activity and misdemeanor convictions for possession of marijuana, theft of a firearm, and criminal mischief.
4. Evidence at the hearing indicates defendant is actively involved in a leadership role in the MS13 gang, despite defendant's contention that he has given up gang membership to follow a religious path.
5. Defendant has not rebutted the statutory presumptions that he is a flight risk and a danger to the community.
6. There is no condition or combination of conditions of release which would assure the appearance of the defendant in court or the safety of the community. Detention is ordered.

Directions Regarding Detention

It is therefore ORDERED that the defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility shall deliver the defendant to the United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with all court proceedings.

Signed at Houston, Texas on April 23, 2012.



Stephen Wm Smith
United States Magistrate Judge